

VOL. I.

Professional Cards.

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MALCOLM SMITH,
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SURVEYOR,
Office Next to Post Office.

S. D. HURD,
ARCHITECT,
Big Stone Gap, Va.

ANS,
SPECIFICATIONS
AND ESTIMATES
DRAFTED IN A THOROUGH AND
ARTISTIC MANNER.

D. C. SLOAN, a leading merchant of Clinchport, was in town Sunday.

The colored baptizing at East Fifth street bridge was the means of bringing out a large crowd of curious spectators last Sunday.

Hon. Geo. A. Smith, of Rogersville, Tenn., in company with Mr. A. J. Steinman, editor of the Lancaster (Pa.) Intelligencer, was registered at the Central Friday.

Jo. A. PICKEL, well-known to the people of southwest Virginia, was in town Saturday. Jo. is representing one of Richmond's largest wholesale boot and shoe houses, and reports a good trade.

Mr. G. W. BOLINGER, representing the Southern Brass and Iron Co., Knoxville, Tenn., was in town last Thursday. He had visited all the principal towns between Middlesboro and Roanoke and reported trade good.

Glories of "Teaching the Young Idea."
Written for the Post.

Easter has come and gone; the Easter bonnets and costumes have been seen, admired, envied, made fun of, criticised generally, according to each one's "bent," and society is again in a whirl. All but the teacher, that is; she's in a whirl also, but it is of a different turn. This is the time of year when teachers begin to vow that "they will never teach again as long as life lasts." And I want to persuade them all to stay in. Why, teaching is a most inspiring avocation! If you don't believe it, just try it, and if you don't feel inspired to bestow fancies which shall be "new every morning and fresh evening," then my name's not Polly. And, as everybody knows I am Polly, that is proved. Don't give up teaching now, for altho' you may want to hunt violets and anemones by the river-banks and up the hillsides, think how much grander work it is to hunt ideas in the average child's head, and what a grand discoverer you will be if you find one there—on any subject pertaining to school. The average child has plenty of ideas as to the best way to fish, the best place to find bait, the whereabouts of the prettiest arbutus, the largest violets and the finest teapots, and would make a most pleasant companion for a ramble, but his companionship along "the orbit of the sun" in a geography class is not very desirable, still, don't give up teaching, for the children are learning so much. While you are working yourself into an enthusiastic glow over some lesson, Jim Jenkins is counting his crickets he caught this morning and has kept wrapped up in his handkerchief, all ready to rush to the river as soon as you dismiss, and his learning exactly how to time you, so as to catch your eye when you turn it on him, and to look knowing. And if, having described some African product, you wish to bring in current history, Stanley, etc., and to give an idea how richly Stanley deserves his honor, you ask Jim, who looks so pleased, what he can say of the interior of Africa, he'll say instantly, "It's dark and still." Don't be discouraged and resign; he's thinking of the spot where he'll fish, and he's learned how to fool you. Next year you will have learned not to question him when he looks so interested; so there's one great advantage of not resigning—you and your scholars learn each other so well.

Then, there's lots of fun teaching. I wouldn't quit for anything. It's such a pleasure to see the look of happy astonishment when the children hear a new fact. For instance, after an afternoon devoted to compositions on Ben Franklin, Morton said, "Please, Miss De Belhor, tell us what you want us to know about him for." "Because of the energy he possessed, of his indomitable courage and perseverance in overcoming every obstacle in the way of his learning. I want you to be like him." "Now please tell us what you mean by that."

"Simply that he had backbone and grit, as you boys would say." And I can see still his open-eyed wonder when he said, "O, Miss De Belhor, I never heard that before. I always knew everybody had a backbone, but I never seen any body have a grit before. Have I got one?"

I thought, "yes; not only a grit, but a huge rock where your brains should be," but I didn't say it; I laughed most heartily and am glad he taught me not to use two long words together in school. I had lots more fun out of him afterwards, for I didn't resign. Don't you either.

OUR RESOURCES.

FACTS FOR INVESTORS.

Some of the Natural Advantages Possessed by Big Stone Gap, Which Will Help to Make Her the Manufacturing Center of the South.

Following are five analyses of the coking coal of Big Stone Gap:

Fixed carbon.....67.10 64.64 62.54 59.34 62.20
Volatile combustible.....32.10 35.10 37.50 40.66 37.80
Ash.....1.61 1.66 2.40 3.40 3.00
Sulphur.....0.610 0.711 0.412 0.290 0.547

And this of the average samples of the same vein by Mr. Andrew S. McCreath, chemist of the Pennsylvania Geological Survey:

Fixed carbon.....69.201
Volatile combustible.....35.220
Ash.....1.513
Sulphur.....0.294

The coke made from this coal is a great success as is shown by Mr. McCreath's letter:

Mr. E. B. LEBENBERG,
Prest, The Virginia Coal & Iron Co.,
Big Stone Gap.

DEAR SIR: The sample of coke received from Mr. J. K. Taggart yesterday, yields on analysis the following results:

Water.....0.068
Volatile matter.....5.64
Fixed carbon.....94.04
Sulphur......588
Ash.....4.74

Color of Ash, brown. This represents a coke of great purity; low in both sulphur and ash and high in fixed carbon, chemically it is fully as good as the very best Pocahontas coke, and it should rank high as a metallurgical fuel.

Yours truly, ANDREW S. MCCREATH.

Mr. McCreath might have said more, and doubtless would have done so but for his identification with Pennsylvania interests. But he gives the facts and the intelligent reader may draw his own conclusions. The following comparative table will show the superiority of the coke produced here over that produced either at Connellsville or Pocahontas.

Average of 7 samples Big Stone Gap coke, made in open run and by barrel test, 90.23
3 samples Connellsville, Pa., coke, oven test.....88.96 9.74 8.10
4 samples Chattanooga, Tenn., coke, oven test.....80.51 1.634 1.135
4 samples Birmingham, Ala., coke, oven test.....77.29 10.54 1.205
3 samples Pocahontas, Va., coke, oven test.....92.55 0.74 0.597
8 samples New River, W. Va., coke, oven test.....92.38 7.21 0.552
1 sample Big Stone Gap coke, oven test, analysis made by A. S. McCreath, Sept., 1890.....94.04 4.74 5.88

This coke besides having been analyzed, has been thoroughly tested as to strength and porosity, and is pronounced by capable experts to be nearer a perfect coke than any yet made.

When it is considered that this immense seam of coal is from seven to thirteen feet in thickness; that it extends over an area of over 60,000 acres; that it is located up above the level of the valleys; that it can be drained without the use of machinery; that so much of the expense which must be incurred in other localities in the manufacture of coke are avoided, and that ample transportation is now afforded, it will be seen what an immense advantage these fields have over any yet discovered in the United States or elsewhere.

No. 1 below is a splint coal 4 feet thick, and No. 2 a cannel coal, both by McCreath:

Fixed carbon.....58.03 48.252
Volatile combustible.....37.580 43.069
Ash.....3.075 0.225
Sulphur.....0.406 0.738

The following are three samples of double Bessemer ore tributary to Big Stone Gap, and is being used by the Appalachian furnace, and is found elsewhere only in Algeria, Africa.

Hard ore. Red ore. Fire ore.
Silica.....1.27 6.71 14.65
Alumina.....0.80 0.80 0.85
Phosphorus.....0.02 0.03 0.06
Manganese.....70.98 61.10 46.28

And this by another chemist of brown hematite, (dried at 212 deg. Fahrenheit) six miles away:

Silica.....4.45
Alumina.....2.03
Phosphorus.....0.43
Manganese.....53.62
Metallic iron.....6.60
Lime.....trace
Sulphur.....none

Besides these there are also on railroads running here another brown ore carrying from 47 to 60 per cent of iron, and .109 of phosphorus; magniferous iron ores, and in all probability large deposits of manganese; a black limonite with from 50 to 55 per cent of iron (well suited for the pneumatic basic process); a specular or red hematite (Bessemer) with 55 to 65 per cent of iron, while of the great Cranberry magnetic ore Prof. Procter, in his report, says:

"Extending northeast and southwest through the western counties of North Carolina are large deposits of the purest magnetic iron ore known in this country save in the Lake Superior region. These ores, from a number of samples averaged by myself and officers of the Tenth Census and others, analyzed from 45 per cent to 66 per cent of iron, and are, in Mitchell and Ash counties, North Carolina, are remarkably free from phosphorus and sulphur. Recent developments along a line of thirty miles in extent prove the excessive nature of these deposits. The only point where these ores have as yet been reached by a railway is at Cranberry mine in Mitchell county, North Carolina. A few years ago the great mass of ore now uncovered at this point was hid by a thick covering of

soil and decomposed gneiss, save only a few surface pits from which a small force was supplied with ore. Within the past few years the face of the hill has been uncovered, revealing an enormous mass of very pure magnetite to a height of 300 feet above the railway track. The engineer in charge at the mines assured me that from diamond-drill tests and the uncovered mass, he had here piled up above the railway track over 20,000,000 tons of ore to be mined by simply quarrying in open cut; and I doubt if an ore of like excellence can be delivered on cars at less cost elsewhere in America. A furnace test was recently made on Virginia coke and the run of mine of Cranberry ore, and a pig produced containing .03 per cent of phosphorus; and from practical furnace tests and the analyses of ore from many openings, it is demonstrated that the entire district contains in abundance an ore suited to the manufacture of Bessemer steel. This ore is nearer to coke (at Big Stone Gap) than is any other Bessemer steel ore known to me in America. From the Bessemer ores of the lake region, the source of nearly all the steel now made in this country, to the nearest coke is about 800 miles; from the Bessemer ores of west North Carolina to the coke at Big Stone Gap it is 100 miles, and between these two extremes are to be had the various ores above described. Beyond the Blue Ridge, in the Carolinas, are large deposits of high-grade ores. A very great development in the manufacture of iron and steel will follow up the completion of the roads connecting the coking coals and ores, in the region under discussion.

"A Scotch iron manufacturer of large experience, who spent some months in examining the coals and ores in the district extending from southeastern Kentucky to Western North Carolina, estimates the cost of making a ton of pig iron at Big Stone Gap at \$7.80; and thinks that Bessemer steel can be made at the same place as at low cost as in England. This estimate agrees with estimates made by practical iron and steel manufacturers from Pennsylvania who have made large investments at Big Stone Gap for the purpose of development.

"Furnaces and Steel plants at Big Stone Gap will have, in addition to the local supply of coke, coal, and pure limestone, the advantage of a location on competing lines of railway, and the advantage of a location on a great system that can deliver the products direct to all of the great markets in the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys. The ores from East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and the Carolinas can be shipped with advantage to these furnaces, as it is carrying the ores in the direction of the markets, and these ores will give return freight for the cars of coal and coke shipped from Big Stone Gap to those States."

FACTS FOR MANUFACTURERS.

The Virginia Coal & Iron Company agrees to furnish coke at the following prices.

At the ovens at Big Stone Gap.....\$2.00 Foundry.....\$2.30
It is likely these prices will be reduced under competition, but take them as they are and compare them with the prices at Connellsville.

Cost of coke at Connellsville December 1890:
Furnace coke \$2.15 per ton. Foundry coke, \$2.45
Freight rates from Connellsville:
To Pittsburgh.....\$0.70
Mahoning Valley, O.....1.35
Cleveland.....1.70
Detroit.....2.35
Cincinnati.....2.65
Cincinnati.....3.20
Chicago.....2.15
St. Louis.....3.35
Baltimore.....2.17
Boston.....4.00

Total shipments from Connellsville for week ending November 22, 1890, 6,977 cars, distributed as follows: To Pittsburgh, 1,500 cars; to the West, 4,100 cars; to the East, 1,377 cars.

Bessemer ore is costing at Pittsburgh \$7.56 per ton, non-Bessemer ore costs at Pittsburgh from \$4.00 to \$6.00 per ton.

Non-Bessemer ore will cost at Big Stone Gap from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per ton, and the Bessemer ore from \$3.00 to \$3.50 per ton.

Limestone will cost at least twice as much at Pittsburgh as at Big Stone Gap.

It is said that 700 tons of Pocahontas coke passes west through Bristol daily for furnaces in the Alabama and Chattanooga districts. This coke will cost from \$3.75 to \$4.50 per ton at those furnaces.

These facts show the smaller cost of coke and iron ore at Big Stone Gap and require no comment. Coke can be delivered at the ovens here much cheaper than these figures indicate, and still afford a large profit to the maker.

OPINION OF TWO ENGLISH EXPERTS.

Mr. John W. Darby, of Wexham, Eng., and Mr. F. Monks, of Warrington, Eng., members of the British Iron & Steel Institute, recently visited Big Stone Gap. Mr. Darby is a young man, but has already reached a prominent position among the iron and steel producers of England. He inherits his aptness for these industries from ancestors who have been prominent in them for a century. His grandfather was the first to make iron from uncoked coal, and his own plant, located near Chester, was first to use successfully the basic process for making steel. Mr. Monks is one of the oldest and best known of the practical iron and coke men of England.

"The very thing I want to see are here, I did not care to see the manufactories in operation, for we have those at home as numerous and as nearly perfect as one could wish to see, although I must say that I have been greatly surprised and pleased at the great concerns we saw in the North. Their equipments are not so complete nor their methods so economical as ours in England, but they are rapidly approaching it. What those of us who mean business wish to see in America is just what I have seen to-day at Big Stone Gap; as fine coke as I have seen in England, with iron ores only two miles away, and Limestone between; together water power and

railroads. This is a combination that is bound to make you great here. I have never seen it equaled elsewhere. Your coke is the best I have seen in America. The brown ore we inspected to-day are admirable adapted to the basic process. Of course your proximity to the magnetic oars at Cranberry is a great card in your favor, but you will not need that to make the possibilities of this point simply incalculable. We have been over a large portion of the Southern mineral belt, and I regard this as the best point we have seen for the manufacturing of basic steel, owing to the quality and quantity of your brown ore and their proximity to this coke. I have enjoyed my day here greatly, and hope I can return soon."

Mr. Monks spoke in the same strain, saying he had been a practical producer of coke and iron for forty years, and that he had never seen better coke; and the iron ore, both brown and red were fine. He thought the best card for the future of Big Stone Gap in the iron industry was the advantage it had over any other place he had seen for the production of steel by the basic process.

TIMBER.

Prof. Procter in his report says of the timber: "About 90 per cent of the area included in the Appalachian coal-field in Southwest Virginia, West Virginia, and Southeast Kentucky, is covered with forest of valuable hardwoods—oak, yellow poplar, hickory, etc. The Black Mountains, immediately north of Big Stone Gap, are heavily timbered from base to summit with as magnificent forests as I have ever seen."

Dr. J. C. PRUNER, of Mendota, was in town Thursday. He has an enviable reputation for fine and lasting work in dentistry and has established an extensive practice. He visits Big Stone Gap the 3rd Monday in each month. Arrangements for dental work should be made with him on that day for succeeding days of the week. See his advertisement elsewhere.

The afternoon likely to be opened soon.

Mr. Peter Kidd, of Roanoke, was in town several days last week, mixing among friends here. He came for the purpose of arranging for a lease on the Intermont hotel. He will very likely complete the arrangement at an early day, when the Intermont will again hum with life.

Stockholders' Meeting.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Appalachian Bank, of Big Stone Gap, Va., for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, and to transact any other business that may be brought before them, will be held at 4 o'clock p. m., Monday, May 8th, 1893, in the offices of said bank.

W. A. McDOWELL, President.

Stockholders' Meeting.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Big Stone Gap and Powell's Valley Railway Co., for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, and to transact any other business that may be brought before them, will be held Monday, May 4th, 1893, in the office of said company, at Big Stone Gap, Va.

W. C. HARRINGTON, Sec.

Stockholders' Meeting.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Big Stone Gap Electric Light and Power Co., for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, and to transact any other business that may be brought before them, will be held, Monday, May 4th, 1893, in the office of said company, at Big Stone Gap, Va.

Jas. L. KELLY, Sec.

Stockholders' Meeting.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Central Land Company will be held in the Directors room of the Appalachian Bank, Big Stone Gap, Va., on Tuesday, May 4th, 1893, at two (2) o'clock p. m. Officers for the ensuing year and all other general business of the company will be transacted.

Jas. W. GEROW, President.
R. T. IRVINE, Secretary.

Stockholders' Meeting.

A special meeting of the stockholders of the Big Stone Gap Building & Investment Company is hereby called to meet at the Appalachian Bank, Big Stone Gap, Va., on Wednesday, May 3rd, 1893, at 2 o'clock p. m. The object of this meeting is to elect officers, supervise the accounts and condition of the company, and adopt such measures as may be deemed best for the general welfare of the company.

By order of the Board of directors.
R. T. IRVINE, President.
C. H. BERRYMAN, Secretary.

The damage done by the late cyclone in the Mississippi Valley is reported to be \$2,000,000.

THE KING OF TRAMPS.

How Wilson Becker Earned This Questionable Title.

He is Only a Lad of Twenty But the Most Expert Knight of the Road in the Country—Story of His Trans-Continental Expedition.

Wilson Becker, alias "Sailor Kid," the regularly elected king of the tramps, has just completed a trip which gives him a perpetual claim on the throne of American vagrancy, says the Baltimore Herald. In May, the young man, whose proud boast is that he "never done a lick of work 'less I had to" in his life, was made the subject of a wager at Boston. His backer bet a large sum that the "Sailor Kid" would travel from the Hub to San Francisco and return in the space of twenty-one days without spending a cent for railway fare or food. The feat was accomplished, and the sport who risked his money on the tramp presented him, the other evening, with \$500 of his winnings.

Becker now offers to venture this sum—the most money he ever had in his life—on the proposition that he can beat his way around the world under the same conditions as those of his transcontinental trip, in 102 days. Meanwhile he basks in the homage of his ragged subjects, who declare that "der king can't be downed by any man wot works der road."

It may be interesting to note how this lad, not yet twenty years old, has solved the problem of living without labor and gained the names by which he is known. He was born in Demarara, British Guiana, and was christened Wilson Becker. At the age of nine he ran away. Working on the sympathy of sailors by romantic but untruthful tales of woe, he made voyages to Calcutta, Hong Kong, Honolulu and England.

After an absence of eighteen months he reached home. But the fever of traveling was in his veins, and he next essayed land journeys throughout the United States with a success that has no interruption up to the present time.

In 1887 young Becker, who, because of his nautical experience, was known to the fraternity as "Sailor Kid," attended a big convention of tramps at the Nanticoke (Pa.) coal breaker. It was decided by this convention to choose a king. The convention developed two candidates of about equal strength—Patsy Bolivar and "Sailor Kid." Each was popular and had a large following. After several unsatisfactory ballots, numerous fights and the consumption of oceans of beer, the contending factions made a compromise. It was agreed that the crown should grace the brow of the candidate who made the quickest trip from New York City to San Francisco and back, via New Orleans. Becker won with hands down.

While en route he chanced to learn that Indians were allowed to ride free on trains crossing the western prairies, and while "Patsy" Bolivar "plugged along" slowly in freight cars, the "Sailor Kid," with feathers in his hair, paint on his face and a blanket over his shoulders, sped westward in the smoker of a lightning express. This was but one of the many schemes he found available, and as a result he gained the insignia of royalty. It took twenty-six days to make the race for the throne, and on the twenty-eighth his majesty assumed the scepter with the title of Wilson I., and received the submission of his motley gang of subjects.

Organization seems to be the keynote of modern existence, and the tramps are, perhaps, as well organized as any body of peaceable, industrious, sober artisans. The "Knights of the Road," as they call themselves, hold yearly conventions and keep up regular communication with each other by means of a sign language unintelligible save to the initiated. These signs indicate where to go, what places to avoid and the route taken by the maker. They appear on or chalked on fences, are displayed in paint or pencil along the circumference of water tanks or round houses, and disfigure the walls of country depots. Door posts or gates are also utilized for conveying information about dogs, "hand outs," "square meals" and the possibility of being compelled to work for a night's lodging.

One custom is common to the millionaire and the tramp. Each is a denizen of the city during the winter and seeks the country in the summer. But while the farmer welcomes the one, the other is an object of aversion and distrust, save, perhaps, in haying or harvest time, when, for large compensation, the knight of the road may be induced to do a little work.

It is estimated by King Wilson I. that he has 30,000 subjects throughout the United States. He doesn't comprise in this number the honest poor, who are looking for employment, or the capitalistic gypsies who own horses and wagons and journey from place to place, tinkering broken pots and pans, making shrapnel and devastating hen roosts and melon patches. He alleges are those only who "don't have to work" and who would flee a woodpile or a job quicker than they would a pest house. The ever present nuisance of this great army of leeches has become so intolerable that many States carry on their statute books laws that might seem harsh and unreasonable to the theoretic philanthropists, but which, with all their severity, seem to avail little in checking the growing evil of voluntary idleness.

Awful and Lovable.

A Windsor Locks (Conn.) little girl, just old enough to enter the infant class at the Sunday-school, was ambitious to recite a text of Scripture as the older ones did at the concert exercises. To humor her ambition and make reasonable certain that she would succeed, the mother selected the best text: "It is lawful for us to go on the Sabbath day," and taught her until she rehearsed it several times correctly. When the programme opened, however, the little orator, with her audience and mortified mother, took the position of a "hand out" and trudged on the "Sabbath day."

Boston is in a state of excitement. A portion of the concrete basement of the City Hall has sunk about fifteen or twenty feet, and it is ascertained that the foundation of the building is only quicksand.

There are 50,000 match factories.

MISTRESS AND MAID.

A Short Chapter on the Differences Which Occur Between Them.

That there is a maid for every mistress and a mistress for every maid is as certain as that for every Jack there is a Jill.

Even that most homeless of applicants for a position in an American kitchen, the Icelandic damsel whose only accomplishment was "milking reindeer," would be a treasure to a family who kept milk-goats.

The difficulty is that employers are always trying to fit wrong people into wrong places, and will never quietly consider their own peculiarities.

I shall startle you by saying that the best servant in the abstract is by no means always the best for you. For you must consider, not so much what she has done in her last place, as what she will be expected to do in yours.

If your family is drilled like a regiment, so that all rise, go to meals and retire with exact regularity, the well-trained English servant is the best for you. She will serve you seriously, answer your orders with an invariable "Very well, ma'am," have your Sunday dinner ready for you when you come home from church all in a row, lock the front door, extinguish the hall lamp and banish the family cat at ten precisely and allow you to have an occasional regular party with ice cream and salads, and the company all in full dress. In fact she will rejoice to serve so exemplary a family, and feel that it is owing to her influence that you keep so strictly to the right way.

If, on the contrary, you are professional people, with mildly Bohemian habits and a desire to have some innocent jollity and a sense of good-fellowship, avoid this perfect servant as you would a fiery dragon.

Her wrath on learning that the various members of the household rise when they please and sit up until two o'clock when they desire to do so, that they have impromptu banquets at irregular hours, that they do as they like without asking what others do, will be too great for utterance. Her first discovery of a Flemish jug and mugs to match in the dining-room of a morning will crush her. She will sweep the cigarette boxes away with anguish in her soul, and will be seized with symptoms which force her to pin a white handkerchief about her forehead.

From that moment her shocked expression will be permanent, and you will feel as though you had established somebody else's family ghost on the premises until you part, very, very gladly.

No, this perfect servant will never do for you. Get a jolly Irishwoman, or a comfortable, fat, southern black aunty, who can understand that you keep house to live and do not live to keep house.

The matrons whose family love to live well spend half a day at a bureau to engage at last a mild, milk-and-water sort of a female, with a small chin and no mouth to speak of, who in reply to every affable question utters the same "I've no choice, ma'am."

Why, Heaven knows, forty years of experience ought to have taught her that a woman like that always serves meats half cooked and barely warm, steepers her coffee, water-soaks her vegetables, sends up her puddings in a liquid condition and flavorless, is incapable of getting up a good fire or giving a comfortable effect to a room that she arranges of opening a door widely to admit a gust or quite shutting one on any occasion; that while she dominates the kitchen the household will feel half starved and wholly wretched.

Memorable, sensitive person, with strong feelings about the subject of graves and funerals, thus as to salads and sauces, when engaged by a lady who keeps her family on short rations, principled of bread and smoked beef, while the timid elderly splinter in glasses has been so far left to herself as to take home with her to her little flat an immense, red-haired fury,